

shut-in members of the church at St. Edmonds Episcopal Church in Chicago and St. James Episcopal Church in Houston.

He was selected for Astronaut Candidate training by NASA in May of 2004 and completed training in February of 2006. On STS-129, Dr. Satcher is scheduled to perform two EVAs—space walks—among other assignments. For those who want to follow Dr. Satcher on Twitter, he will be tweeting as astro_bones and ZeroG_MD.

Godspeed to you, Dr. Satcher. Bobby, you have a lot of fans back on Earth, and especially those in Oak Park, Illinois.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE SPOILS OF WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. In Iraq, after thousands upon thousands of lost lives and hundreds of thousands of disabling injuries, after a trillion dollars of U.S. treasure added to our Nation's debt, after an incalculable amount of U.S. prestige being lost, one aspect about Iraq remains defining: It's all about oil and the spoils of oil across that region.

Exxon, the largest U.S. oil company, with profits totaling \$40.6 billion in 2008—a record—just got its first contract inside Iraq. Foreign oil companies like Exxon were thrown out of that country four decades ago when Saddam Hussein nationalized Iraq's oil fields.

Michael Klare, in his prescient book about resource wars, "Blood and Oil," connects the dots. What a shame our world is so primitive, people brutally fight over diminishing resources as global energy extraction giants advantage themselves, far from home, in the wake of our soldiers, tapping largesse these oil giants covet.

Iraq ranks fourth in global oil reserves behind Saudi Arabia, Canada,

and Iran. Iraq's central government is now picking winners in the great oil prize bonanza—the "Iraqi Oil Contracting Rush of 2009." Oil has dominated Iraq's economy for generations. Oil has traditionally provided more than 90 percent of that country's exchange earnings, and that is likely to be the case for a few decades to come until it's all sucked dry.

According to the Washington Post, the oil ministry is expected to hold a new bidding round in December for undeveloped fields. Those are also for service agreements. Oil giants hope the deals could one day lead to production-sharing deals, long a goal of energy firms that have been shut out of the Middle East for years.

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The oil giants, Exxon-Mobil and Royal Dutch/Shell, signed a \$50 billion deal with Iraq to extract oil from the Western Qurna oil field, one of Iraq's largest oil fields located north of Rumaila field, west of Basra in southern Iraq. Western Qurna is believed to hold 11 to 15 billion barrels of recoverable reserve. This prize of a deal gives Exxon-Mobil, Shell and their partners \$1.90 per barrel above the current production rate of 2.5 million barrels per day, and they hope to increase production to 7 million per day over the next 6 years, meaning a windfall of \$3.1 billion per year.

Are the lives of our soldiers worth it? The giant Exxon Mobil/Shell consortium beat out the other oil giant consortiums, led by Russia's LUKOIL, France's Total and a consortium led by China's CNPC. Dictators have come and gone, foreign armies have come and gone, some still remain.

One thing remains constant about Iraq. Oil is still the big prize. That is why American and European oil company giants going all the way back to the Ottoman Empire have coveted control of their crude. Cynics would even say they have been willing to go to war over it. As we observe the continuing rush to the oil fields by a world that must transition to a greener and sustainable energy future, one must ask the tough question, Are the lives of our noble military going to be expended—for how long?—far away from home to access a resource that is diminishing globally while America's Treasury is emptied, supporting wars in foreign places to tap a resource that, by 2050, will be gone, never to return again.

Civilized people should demand more than fighting resource wars of the past for an oil giant's prizes, for limited remaining time on this planet. It's time to think hard about where we have extended our most precious assets and to say, It's time to come home.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida addressed the House. His re-

marks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CASSIDY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Although you called me "mister," I am actually a physician; and so in my other life—I actually saw patients just yesterday at a public hospital in Louisiana, a safety net hospital where I have worked for the last 20 years. So caring for the uninsured has been my life's work since completing my residency and returning home. I've learned that if you don't pay attention to costs that it doesn't matter how passionate you are for the uninsured; the fact is that you are unable to achieve your goals.

There are three goals of health reform, and they're commonly said to be controlling cost to provide access to high-quality care. In the hospital where I work, a safety net hospital, they are committed, they are so passionate for the underserved folks who are med techs, physical therapists, ward clerks, physicians and nurses. But the problem is, if there is a budget shortfall, then inevitably, services suffer.

So it doesn't matter how passionate we are in our service. The fact is that if there are insufficient resources in the State at the end of the budget year, then services suffer. It may be that the nurse staffing has decreased and hospital beds are closed so that if somebody comes to the emergency room, they have to wait in the emergency room before they're admitted. And inevitably when that happens, the hospital goes into what is called divert, whereas instead of coming to our hospital, they will be diverted to another hospital. That's because if you don't control cost, inevitably, access and quality suffer.

Now, I was struck that President Obama agrees with this. President Obama continually speaks about the need to bend the cost curve down, the need to control costs because if we do not control costs, then our economy suffers and the ability to provide care suffers. Now, it's one thing to say that we're going to control cost in order to expand access to quality care, but you've got to have a plan on how to get there.

There is a company called McKinsey & Company, and on their Web site, they have a great article that you can download called "The Three Imperatives of Health Care Reform." Without achieving these three imperatives, then, we cannot control cost in a way which expands access to quality care. Now the three imperatives that they list are decreasing administrative costs, how much money we put into the